

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for electrically isolating a portion of an atria, the atria including atrial walls having outer surfaces, the apparatus comprising:
a handle; and
an energy transmission structure, associated with the handle, including at least two energy transmission surfaces;
the energy transmission structure being configured and dimensioned such that it is movable between a first orientation where a distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another and a second orientation where the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two atrial walls to be in contact with one another.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure comprises a releasable lasso.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission surfaces comprise ablation surfaces.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission surfaces comprise electrically conductive material.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, further comprising:

a connector for connecting the energy transmission surfaces to an energy source.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure is configured and dimensioned such that the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two atrial appendage walls that substantially oppose one another when the energy transmission structure is in the first orientation and the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two atrial appendage walls to be in contact with one another when the energy transmission structure is in the second orientation.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the at least two energy transmission surfaces are connected to one another, thereby defining a continuous energy transmission surface.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure is configured and dimensioned such that the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two left atrial walls that substantially oppose one another when the energy transmission structure is in the first orientation and the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two left atrial walls to be in contact with one another when the energy transmission structure is in the second orientation.